APPENDIX 1
ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Environmental indicators provide an objective assessment on the state of the environment and overall environmental improvement along the border. In this report, each of the nine Border XXI Workgroups has provided an update on the status of the binational environmental indicators presented in the 1997 United States-Mexico Border Environmental Indicators Report.

The indicators presented in each workgroup chapter are defined according to the United Nations Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) framework for organizing indicators. A tab above each indicator denotes which of the three categories a particular indicator falls into. Each indicator is categorized as a pressure, state, or response indicator as defined below.

PRESSURE INDICATORS Pressure indicators are measures of pressure on the environment caused by human activities. An example is the amount of pollutant loading on surface or subsurface waters by a given industry or process.

STATE INDICATORS State indicators are measures of the quality of the environment and the quantity of natural resources, and include the health effects on human populations and ecosystems caused by the deterioration of the environment. An example is the concentration of a particular chemical in surface or subsurface waters. Unlike the pressure indicator example above, which measures the amount of pollution loading, a state indicator captures the concentration of a pollutant in surface or subsurface water.

RESPONSE INDICATORS Response indicators are measures of the efforts undertaken by society to respond to environmental changes and issues. An example is the amount of alternative chemicals substituted for water polluting substances in a particular industry or process.

Using the OECD model allows the workgroups to evaluate environmental and human health conditions under a consistent methodology to better determine the best strategies for addressing environmental and human health issues along the border. As more data are collected and analyzed, the indicators will be presented in a manner that integrates pressure, state, and response indicators and their impact on human health. In addition, future environmental indicator reports will present an analysis and interpretation of environmental indicator trends.